

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**CLERK'S OFFICE**

**NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING**

**DOCKET NO. 2012-94-S**

**APPLICATION OF PALMETTO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION LLC d/b/a ALPINE UTILITIES, INC. FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE PROVISION OF SEWER SERVICE AND MODIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE PROVISION OF ITS SERVICE**

Palmetto Wastewater Reclamation LLC d/b/a Alpine Utilities, Inc. (the Company) has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for an adjustment of the Company's rates and charges for the provision of sewer service and modifications to certain terms and conditions of the provision of its service. The Company is a public utility, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-10(4) (Supp. 2011), providing sewer service to the public for compensation in certain areas of South Carolina pursuant to rates approved by the Commission in Docket No. 2008-190-S.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240, the Company requests that the Commission approve an increase in its monthly sewer service rates and the adoption of certain other charges. In support of its request for this increase, the Company asserts, among other things, that the proposed sewer rate increases are necessary in order that it may provide reasonable and adequate service to its customers, allow the Company to recover its incurred costs, comply with environmental regulations, and earn a reasonable return on its investment. The Company also asserts that the proposed sewer rate increase is necessary to preserve its financial integrity and to permit continued investment in and maintenance of its facilities so as to provide reliable and high quality services. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 103-512.4.A, the Company also seeks modifications to certain terms and conditions of its rate schedule including the adoption of language pertaining to circumstances under which the Company will bill tenants for service, the inclusion of fees and charges for opening customer accounts, late payments, disconnection notifications and service reconnections, and the incorporation of commercial customer service rates based upon a SCDHEC regulation setting single family equivalency ratings based upon hydraulic flow instead of biochemical oxygen demand as provided for in the current Company rate schedule.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH BELOW**  
**(The complete rate schedule is available from the Company at the address below and on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov))**

<b>Residential Monthly Charges</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Residential monthly charge Per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$16.75	\$34.14
Mobile Home	\$13.23	\$25.61

### Commercial Monthly Charges

Charges for commercial establishments served by the Company will be based upon single family equivalency (SFE) ratings set using wastewater treatment plant loading factors established in DHEC regulation 61-67, Appendix A. **All commercial customers will pay based on a minimum SFE rating of one (1), which is \$34.14 per month. Some commercial customers will have minimum SFE ratings greater than one (1).** Charges for commercial establishments served by the Company using the proposed loading factors and rates are as follows:

Type of Establishment	Current	Proposed
Assembly Halls: Per Seat	Formula <sup>1</sup> N/A	\$0.43
Barber Shop: Per Employee Per Chair	Formula N/A N/A	\$0.85 \$8.54
Bars or Taverns: Per Employee Per Seat, excluding Restaurant	N/A \$0.19	\$0.85 \$3.41
Beauty Shop: Per 1,000 Square Feet Space Per Employee Per Chair	\$10.36 N/A N/A	N/A \$0.85 \$10.67
Boarding House, dormitory: Per resident	Formula N/A	\$4.27
Bowling Alley: Per Employee Per Lane, no restaurant, bar or lounge Per Lane, excluding Restaurant	N/A N/A \$5.24	\$0.85 \$10.67 N/A
Camps: Resort, Luxury per person Summer, per person Day, with central bathhouse, per person Travel Trailer, per site	Formula N/A N/A N/A N/A	\$8.54 \$4.27 \$2.99 \$14.94
Car Wash:	Formula	

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<sup>1</sup> Types of commercial customers or DHEC load factors not shown are charged under the current rate schedule based on the following formula:

$$\$16.75 \times \frac{\text{Bio-chemical oxygen demand of Commercial Establishment}}{(2.8) (.23)}$$

Per Car Washed	N/A	\$6.40
Churches:		
Per Seat	\$0.32	\$0.26
Clinics, Doctor's Office:	Formula	
Per Employee	N/A	\$1.28
Per Patient	N/A	\$0.43
Country Club, Fitness Center, Spa: (Per Member)	Formula N/A	\$4.27
Dentist Office:	Formula	
Per Employee	N/A	\$1.28
Per Chair	N/A	\$0.68
Per Suction Unit; Standard Unit	N/A	\$31.58
Per Suction Unit; Recycling Unit	N/A	\$8.11
Per Suction Unit; Air Generated Unit	N/A	N/A
Factories:		
Per Employee (No Showers)	\$1.56	\$2.13
Per Employee (With Showers)	\$2.06	\$2.99
Per Employee (With Kitchen s)	\$2.59	\$3.41
Per Employee (With showers and Kitchen)	N/A	\$3.84
Fairgrounds:	Formula	
Average Attendance, Per Person	N/A	\$0.43
Grocery Stores:	Formula	
Per one thousand (1,000) Square Feet, No Restaurant	N/A	\$17.07
Hospitals:	Formula	
Per Resident Staff	N/A	\$8.54
Per Bed	N/A	\$17.07
Hotels:	Formula	
Per bedroom, no restaurant	N/A	\$8.54
Institutions:		
Per Resident	\$4.40	\$8.54
Laundries:		
Self Service (Per Machine)	\$10.81	\$34.14
Motels:		
Per Unit (No Restaurant)	\$4.40	\$8.54

Nursing Homes:		
Per Bed	\$4.40	\$8.54
Per Bed (With Laundry)	\$5.17	\$12.80
Offices,	\$1.29 <sup>2</sup>	\$2.13
Small Stores,	Formula	\$2.13
Businesses,	Formula	\$2.13
Administration Buildings:	Formula	\$2.13
All Per Person (No Restaurant)		
Picnic Parks:		
Average Attendance, per person	\$1.56	\$0.85
Prison/Jail:		
Per employee	N/A	\$1.28
Per inmate	N/A	\$10.67
Rest Area, Welcome Center		
Per Person	N/A	\$0.43
Per Person, with Shower	N/A	\$0.85
Rest Homes:		
Per Bed	\$4.40	\$8.54
Per Bed (With Laundry)	\$5.17	\$12.80
Restaurants:		
Fast Food Type, Not Twenty Four (24) Hours, Per Seat)	\$5.17	\$3.41
24 Hour Restaurant (Per Seat)	\$7.77	\$5.97
Drive-In, Per Car Space	\$5.17	\$3.41
Drive-Thru, per Car Served	N/A	\$3.41
Vending Machine (per person)	\$3.11	\$3.41
Walk-up Deli (Per Person)	Formula	\$3.41
Schools, Day Care:		
Per Person (No Showers, Gym, Cafeteria)	\$1.03	\$0.85
Per Person (With Cafeteria, No Gym, Showers)	\$1.29	\$1.28
Per Person (With Cafeteria, Gym, Showers)	\$1.56	\$1.71
Service Stations:		
Without Bay	\$36.40	N/A
First Bay	\$51.81	N/A
Each Additional Bay (Per Bay)	\$25.91	N/A
Per Employee	N/A	\$0.85
Per Car Served	N/A	\$0.85
Car Wash (Per Car Washed)	N/A	\$6.40

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<sup>2</sup> Current rate applies to offices only. All other establishment types are currently charged by Formula.

Shopping Centers, Large Department Stores, Malls:	Formula Formula	
Per 1,000 Square Feet Space (No Restaurant)	\$10.36	\$17.07
Stadiums, coliseums	Formula	
Per seat, no restaurant	N/A	\$0.43
Swimming Pools: (Per Person with Sewer Facilities and Showers)	\$1.03	\$0.85
Theatres:		
Drive-In (Per Stall)	\$0.47	\$0.43
Indoor (Per Seat)	\$0.47	\$0.43

**Sewer Service Connection Charge per Single-Family Equivalent** - \$250.00

**Notification Fee (Regarding Disconnection of Service)** - \$25.00

**Customer Account Charge Related to Initiating Service** - \$20.00

**Reconnection Charges** – In addition to any other charges that may be due, a reconnection fee of \$250.00 shall be due prior to the Utility reconnecting service which has been disconnected for any reason set forth in Commission Regulation 103-532.4. Where an **elder valve** has been previously installed a reconnection charge of \$35.00 shall be required.

**Late Payment Charges** – Any balance unpaid within twenty-five days of the billing date shall be assessed a late payment charge of one and one-half percent.

A copy of the Company's entire Application, including its proposed rate schedule, can be obtained from the Commission at the following address: Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Clerk's Office, P. O. Drawer 11649, Columbia, South Carolina 29211. Additionally, the Company's Application is available on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

In order for testimony and evidence to be received from all interested parties, a public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, South Carolina on **Thursday, December 6, 2012, at 10:30 am.**

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before **August 17, 2012**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2012-94-S.***

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify the Clerk's Office, in writing, at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416 on or before **August 17, 2012**, and indicate the amount of time required for the presentation. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2012-94-S.***

**Any person who wishes to request a hearing in his or her county of residence should notify on or before August 17, 2012**, in writing, the Clerk's Office at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P. A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2012-94-S.***

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Clerk's Office in writing at the address below on or before **August 17, 2012**. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2012-94-S.***

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:** Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission in Columbia at 803-896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Attn: Clerk's Office  
Post Office Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

7/17/12